

More Drainage Matters by R. E. Grinstead

Many persons living in the west end of the county have an idea that when the Mo. River has a maximum raise then the Nemaha River is affected with back water as far up as Salem. The time was when many Salem people believed that at the Exchange Mills Falls City is at the level line of back water. Now Salem people don't believe that way. They have been investigating. Salem people also know that a maximum raise in Mo. River does not affect the flood line in the Nemaha River more than a few hundred feet above the mouth of the Nemaha River.

If both rivers were at maximum flood tide at the same time which would be a coincident not likely to happen in a century, even then the flood in the Nemaha would be modified in the Nemaha by the same for only a few hundred feet above. A maximum raise for Mo. River is 20 feet and only once in 40 years, on an average, does it reach this height. The average annual maximum raise is 15 feet.

Once in every few years there is no noticeable annual raise in the Mo. at the usual time which is about June. These facts are all well known and are compiled from statistics furnished by U. S. Geodetic survey reports.

They are given here to correct an erroneous opinion entertained by people throughout the county. The same is being used somewhat as a supposed reason why the disastrous effects of our overflows may not at all times be eliminated by the methods discussed in these articles on drainage.

It is a pleasing fact and we take delight now in enunciating the same that about all opposition to these improvements on account of any fear formerly entertained, that others than the owners of wet lands will be taxable for the reclamation of the same, is no longer very seriously manifest.

It is also becoming more apparent every day that the people are learning that all classes are vitally interested in having these

improvements made. The good results will be to all in furnishing the only possible solution of having good roads across these bottom lands and that at a maximum expense to all tax payers.

It is also pleasing to know that when these improvements are made that all owners of bottom lands may plant and sow confidently expected to reap the harvest that others do; and that at the same time they are collectively the benefactors, not only of their own interests but of that of the entire county.

It is also a pleasing fact to know that the concurrent opinion of all who have had experience along this line is that results are always good and that we may know in advance just what they will be. It is also significant to us of the best results because of the facts that the natural environments such as gradient, and alluvial soil, in many places a limestone rock, in bottom and bank as a factor to aid in the controlling the forces of nature and conserving the same in taking care of our channel when it shall have been intelligently made.

Remember then this the new channel will be located by a competent civil engineer at the right place. Nobody will be damaged by this location but all will be benefited.

This will be done independently of what you or I may wish to say. The best general results will be conserved by the action of the engineer in charge. The best local and individual results of the particular land owner is to the lands through which the channel is located, however much he may be averse to the same. In Salem township we have three land owners who are each actually anxious to have the channel made through his own lands. When the same shall have been completed, all will see why this is so. It is because it is best for all and will be especially beneficial to the lands of the particular owner.

Yours truly,
R. E. Grinstead.

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